

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tadahiro IGAWA et al.
Title: AIRBAG APPARATUS
Appl. No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: 10/07/2003
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. Except as noted below, a copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when citing and submitting an Information Disclosure Statement in a patent application filed after June 30, 2003 and in an international application that has entered the national stage under 37 USC §371 after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of these types of documents are not being supplied in connection with this application. Reference is being made to Pre-OG Notice from Office of Patent Legal Administration dated July 25, 2003, *Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003.*

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). However, where available, English language abstracts are provided for the Examiner's convenience. In addition, Document A30 is a foreign counterpart to Document A5.

Document A28 is a foreign counterpart to Document A10.

Document A3 and Document A31 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Document A8 and Document A29 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Document A11 and Document A32 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Document A12 and Document 33 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

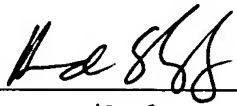
Date: October 6, 2003

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By  39,370
FOR

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|--|---|----|---|--------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: October 7, 2003 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | Complete if Known | | |
| | | | | Application Number | | Unassigned |
| | | | | Filing Date | | October 7, 2003 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | | Tadahiro IGAWA |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | | Unassigned |
| | | | | Examiner Name | | Unassigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 2 | Attorney Docket Number | | 086142-0580 |

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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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| | | | | Examiner Name | Unassigned |
| | | | | Attorney Docket Number | 086142-0580 |
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